

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Ponaganset Middle School Library
October 28, 2008

Executive Session – 6:30 PM
Open Session – 7:00 PM

CONVENE MEETING:

- Meeting was convened at 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE:

- Chairman Michael Paolucci, Vice Chair Dennis Chretien, Member Ron Cervasio
Superintendent Wallace, Principal Gary Moore.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

- The “Pledge of Allegiance” was recited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Votes were taken to move the contracts for the Principal, Business Manager and Assistant to Technology until February 2009. The Vote was 2-1. A vote was taken to have a discussion between the Paine School and the Region. The Vote was 3-0. They also approved the Non-Certified contract. The School Committee had signed this contract and then Superintendent Wallace invited the two (2) people who had to sign said contract to come forward and do so.

FIVE YEAR ASSET PROTECTION PLAN:

- Mr. Joseph daSilva from RIDE made a power point presentation regarding the new regulations concerning the Five Year Asset Protection Plan. A handout was given to all members of the School Committee.

FOSTER SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFFING POLICY:

- Mr. Wallace first wanted to inform the committee that they are looking for the endorsement of the formation of a staffing policy committee. A Motion was made by Vice Chairman Dennis Chretien and it was seconded by Member Ron Cervasio to authorize forming a committee for drafting Special Education Staffing Policy with Mr. John Magner chairing same. Mr. Magner spoke briefly about the formation of this policy in conjunction with the Region. After a brief discussion, Chairman Paolucci made a Motion to appoint Vice Chairman Dennis Chretien to be involved in this committee along with Mr. Baker. This was seconded by Member Ron Cervasio. Votes taken 3-0-0.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Superintendent Wallace reported that were two pieces of communications. The first one was a letter that Superintendent Wallace had just received from the contract negotiating chairperson for the Foster Teacher’s Association complimentening the committee on the whole process that was taken in negotiations. The Superintendent felt the letter was very well written and sincere. The second piece of communication was from the Co-Presidents of the FTA stating in a letter their concerns about the concept of a Principal/Superintendent. They indicated that in their experience in the Foster School Department in the past that this was not a successful way to go. Chairman Ron Paolucci wanted to comment on the Principal/Superintendent and state that he does not feel this committee has any intention in the future on having that type of position. Chairman Paolucci has had a discussion with the other members of the school committee and they all feel that are looking at restructuring the administration from the Region on down.

That would be having the Superintendent from the Region to have the Assistant Superintendent be the Superintendent of the elementary schools and leaving intact the principal's position as is.

REQUEST TO USE SCHOOL FACILITIES:

- Superintendent Wallace reported that there were two requests to use the school facilities: The Cub Scouts are looking to use the cafeteria from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. on various dates for meetings (dates attached separately). Their paperwork is in order and Superintendent Wallace requests approval. Second, the Girl Scouts are looking to use the cafeteria on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Their paperwork is also in order and approval is recommended. Motion made by Vice Chairman Dennis Chretien, seconded by Chairman Paolucci. Motion passed 3-0-0.

TECHNOLOGY:

- Vice Chairman Dennis Chretien met with Bill Gale, Technology Consultant for the Region. Obviously, this takes money and Vice Chairman Chretien is hopeful that some of this will fall under asset maintenance which to some extent would be reimbursable by the State which would reduce the costs. Some possibilities would be to obtain a number of wireless access points from Bryant University that they are disposing of. If this were to happen it would be enough to provide wireless internet access to Paine School. Vice Chairman Chretien is working on getting information regarding not using RINET for internet access and getting faster service with fiber optic at a lower cost. This of course would be a major project. Dennis needs to speak to the Fire Chief for South Foster about space on telephone poles that are not being used to run the fiber for quicker internet access and other possibilities etc. phone system, paging, e-mail, faxing. The second piece that Dennis wanted to bring up was laptop computers for the children at Paine to use. Teachers would have to be contacted to get their input because this would change how instruction is being taught.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE:

- Superintendent Wallace gave the committee a copy of a memo from Maureen McEntee indicating that the Scholarship Committee has been up and running and they are identifying some problems. Superintendent Wallace suggested that the committee authorize the Superintendent to contact Greg Pitchorelli and ask for a meeting with him and Maureen McEntee and a few members of the Scholarship Committee to get a legal foundation on which to proceed. Motion made by Member Ron Cervasio, seconded by Vice Chairman Dennis Chretien. Votes taken 3-0-0.

PLAYGROUND/RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

- Member Ron Cervasio went to the Town Council meeting and the Town is not going to tear down the playground. The Building and Grounds person and Mr. Lewis felt that there was nothing wrong with it. Mr. Cervasio went to the PTG and told them they own it. The School Committee and the Town do not own it. At this point, another committee has to be formed to repair the playground. Member Cervasio would like the surface to be rubberized to make it safe and then deal with making it a useful surface. Superintendent Wallace informed the committee that approximately two years ago there was an accident where a teacher aide broke her ankle. The Trust came out to inspect the playground and made a number of recommendations to Superintendent Wallace and the recommendations

that were made were addressed. To the Superintendent's knowledge, no one from the Trust has inspected the playground since.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Principal Moore reported that it was a busy month with testing. Also, there was a Library Night which was very successful with a good parent/student turnout. On October 28, 2008, there was a gift of dictionaries from the Valley Grange for the third graders to have.

DECEMBER 16, 2008, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING:

- Superintendent Wallace indicated that December 16th is the third Tuesday of the month and that is the meeting date of the Gloucester School Committee. Superintendent Wallace is looking for an alternate date which was agreed by all parties to be Wednesday, December 17, 2008.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Superintendent Wallace seeks the advice and consent of the School Committee for the appointment of Maureen McEntee to the position of a .2 FTE School Social Worker. Motion made by Vice Chairman Dennis Chretien, seconded by Member Ron Cervasio. Discussion by Member Cervasio asking what Gloucester has as far as Social Workers. Superintendent Wallace did not have an answer. Member Cervasio did not have a problem as far as hiring her, but was thinking that this would be one of those positions for shared services down the road. Votes taken 3-0-0.
- The second recommendation was regarding the Special Education Staffing Policy which had already been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

TARGET / OVERLOOK FARM GRANT:

- Superintendent Wallace introduced a memo received from Maureen McEntee regarding writing a grant to target the store Target to get money for field trips. She would like to tie the funds in with the Overlook Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts. Vice Chairman Dennis Chretien spoke out to say that Maureen McEntee was looking for School Committee approval of this grant process and he believes this policy was rescinded and does not have to go before the School Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Member Cervasio made a motion to approve the Minutes as written both regular and executive session. Vice Chair Chretien seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

- Member Cervasio made a motion to approve the Warrants as written. Vice Chair Chretien seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Technology
- Asset Protection / Building Committee

ADJOURNMENT:

- Chairman Paolucci made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. seconded by Member Ron Cervasio. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Submitted by Karen L. Shewcov